

TRANSCRIPT
HOW WE GOT HERE
TRAILER

JELANI COBB: As journalists, we like to say we're writing the first draft of history. But if we don't know our own history, we risk misinterpreting what we see and what we hear. Of failing to connect the dots. George Floyd's murder,

[TAPE] *MINNEAPOLIS CROWD:* *George Floyd!*
PROTESTER: *Now say his name!*
MINNEAPOLIS CROWD: *George Floyd!*
PROTESTER: *Now say his name!*

the Black Lives Matter movement,

[TAPE] *PORTLAND CROWD:* *Black Lives Matter!*
PROTESTER: *Whose lives matter?*
PORTLAND CROWD: *Black Lives Matter!*
PROTESTER: *Whose lives matter?*

the election, the attempted coup –

[TAPE] *D.C. CROWD:* *Stop the steal! Stop the steal!*
DAVID MUIR: *Thousands storming the Capitol after a rally with President Trump, during which he urged them to march on the Capitol.*

They've all brought America to a reckoning with its national character. I'm Jelani Cobb. I'm a professor at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism. Join me and my colleagues as we examine the historical context of today's news in a new podcast – How We Got Here.

SAM FREEDMAN: If someone being written about in a newspaper article was white, the reporter would never think to say so-and-so is a white playwright.

NINA ALVAREZ: Despite the notion that American has been built by immigrants, despite that immigrants mostly pay taxes, the narrative of the law-breaking illegal alien dominates the public discourse.

SHEILA CORONEL: This episode is about the American empire, most Americans don't even know they have one.

DALE MAHARIDGE: Class – a word most Americans don't like to think about. Unless it has the word “middle” in front of it.

ALISA SOLOMON: Around America right now, states are passing laws aiming to restrict gender to this narrow, polarized idea.

JELANI COBB: How We Got Here – a podcast for journalists about how history and identity shape narrative.
A production of the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism in partnership with Columbia Journalism Review.
Episodes drop August 3rd. Listen wherever you get your podcasts.